

**The Times-Dispatch**

Business Office...Times-Dispatch Building  
10 South Tenth Street  
Richmond, Va.  
Petersburg Bureau...109 N. Sycamore Street  
Lynchburg Bureau...215 Eighth Street

BY MAIL. One Six Three One  
POSTAGE PAID Year. Mos. Mos. Mo.  
Daily with Sunday...\$5.00 \$2.00 \$1.00  
Daily without Sunday...\$4.00 \$1.50 .75  
Sunday edition only...\$2.00 .75 .35  
Weekly (Wednesday)...\$1.00 .35 .15

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service  
in Richmond and suburbs and Pe-  
tersburg...One Week  
Daily with Sunday...15 cents  
Daily without Sunday...10 cents  
Sunday only...5 cents

Entered January 21, 1903, at Richmond, Va.,  
as second-class matter under act of Congress  
of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1913.

## THE POOR MAN'S UNIVERSITY.

How can the poor man who has been forced to leave school and devote long hours each day to making a bare living complete his education so as to better his condition and add to his happiness? The answer given at the enthusiastic launching of a public library campaign yesterday was that he must persuade his municipal representatives to give him access to books on the subjects he desires to master. He must have the "poor man's university"—a public library. This practical aspect of a library has hitherto been overlooked in Richmond. Too many people have regarded it as a luxury for the amusement of a few so-called "high brow" and "book worms." It has been thought of as an institution where city taxes are wasted that a few theorists may get pleasure.

The modern city library is nothing of the sort. It is part of a great educational system, in which the grammar schools and the high schools are important elements. For example, the Washington Public Library maintains an "Industrial department" in which there are 8,000 books on scientific, mechanical, and industrial subjects. More than 20 magazines and trade papers and 2,000 manufacturers' catalogues are on file. Trained assistants guide the plain man in his search for information. Some of the subjects covered are: accounting, advertising, aeronautics, agriculture, automobiles, bookkeeping, carpentry, concrete, electricity, house plans, plumbing, printing, railroad and salesmanship.

How often does a mechanic want a bit of information that can be procured only from an expensive book? In this department such books are kept for his use, and he pays nothing for this service. It is a correspondence school at his doors, a night school that he can use all the time, a business college without expensive tuition fees, a university for him and his sons and his wife and daughters.

Information means increased efficiency, and that means higher wages. For the man down in the rut who wants more income and more luxuries the library offers the means of getting them. It is not a theoretical, flimsy place for novel-reading and poetry. It has real helpful, suggestive books on the very things that concern everyday life. It will teach you cooking, or gardening, or lace-making. It will make better citizens, with broader views and loftier aims. It brings home the treasures of art, literature, of science. It gives the child the tools to supplement its school training. It provides for the tired father the light and restful reading that he wants for Saturday night or Sunday. In the immortal words of a great poet, a library "spreads sweetness and light."

The Times-Dispatch knows Richmond needs a library. It believes the people of Richmond want a library. The time has come to take practical steps to get a library. It will labor tirelessly that the poor man and his children may have better advantages through free books.

## ANTI-HOME-RULE LAMENT.

It would seem clearly evident that from this time forward the tactics of the opponents of home rule for Ireland will be directed to bringing about a dissolution of Parliament and an appeal to the country on the issue. That to such a consummation the energies and maneuvering of the Unionist leaders in the Commons will be bent is distinctly foreshadowed and voiced by the London Spectator and other Opposition papers. It is admittedly their only hope.

The Spectator, after sensible and better reference to the "exquisitely well-defined illustration of the working of the parliamentary act" as afforded in the situation and the prospect, writes the wall that nothing stands between us and the final calamity of home rule, but the possibility of procuring an election on the single issue, as far as possible, of home rule and the likelihood that the government in the next resort will face bloodshed in Ulster. Apart from such prospects, it continues, "all the government has to do in order to bring into operation an act" which our contemporary claims has never been properly discussed, is to go on passing it over the heads of the Lords till it automatically becomes law.

The Spectator holds that "it is preposterous that such slender resources should alone safeguard the kingdom from a scheme which cannot even satisfy the professional Nationalist politicians, and will be worked out of an indefinite run in Great Britain, and therefore it argues home rule would be rejected if the elements had an opportunity of expressing their feelings about it." Then, dramatically, to come the specter, who are the victims of the destruction of the Unionist cause. An oligarchy has gathered unwieldy power into its hands by means of the "balance of the Constitution" as restored by a species of constitutionalism to the electors, by means of the poll of the people, on any subject of importance to Parliament. In the Spectator's mind we have both a special and a general lamentation.

However, as we pointed out in the past, there are many ardent Unionists who are not so much concerned with the balance of the Constitution as with the welfare of the people, and who are not so much concerned with the welfare of the people as with the welfare of the people.

## ATHLETICS FOR RICHMOND GIRLS.

The revival of athletic interest in Richmond that must result from the successful launching of the Amateur Athletic Federation, composed of practically all the organizations interested in manly sports and physical development, should be accompanied by an increased participation of girls and women in outdoor and indoor recreation. Health for women is just as important, from every economic and social aspect, as for men. We think that life in Richmond has been peculiarly lacking in the forms of diversion suited to feminine needs, and the present movement will be incomplete unless in some way the girls are affiliated.

This, of course, does not mean strenuous athletics of the masculine sort, or even much formal competition. It does mean the use of gymnasium, games, walking and the river for splendid diversion. There is an excellent opportunity for the organization of a girls' club to foster and direct such activities. The new home of the Young Women's Christian Association should furnish the needed nucleus for a beginning. The High School students might reasonably take part. The alumnae of women's colleges and social workers interested in the feminine uplift should feel a keen duty to help young women develop their bodies and add to their pleasures. A beginning might be made at basketball and tennis. To these sports in the summer aquatic on the river should be joined. At present the admirable chance for swimming and boating right at the city's doors is almost totally neglected.

When the playground movement is carried to its destined success it will stimulate the young girl especially to enjoy the benefits that have been too long reserved for her brothers. The Campfire Girls, similar in aims to the Boy Scouts, offers an agency for the inauguration of outdoor tramps and supervised outings. In many cities the business women have felt the pressing need for physical exercise and filled their need by downtown gymnasiums. The teachers are also a class that might be encouraged along such lines. The material for one or more clubs to represent women in the new federation is certainly available. Is there no moving spirit to help get things started?

## THEATRICAL WISDOM.

When "Everywoman" turned away hundreds at a Richmond theatre a few weeks ago it was declared that the "turning-point" of the theatrical season had been passed. Up to that time the best of plays presented in metropolitan fashion, with casts in some cases made up almost entirely of stars, had received only fair support. Lovers of the fine in dramatic entertainment felt discouraged at the lack of support and appreciation given by the public to praiseworthy efforts to amuse theatre patrons. But the reports that are received of a recent widely-advertised production at top-notch prices, we think hints at the explanation of the tardy public support, and also points a big lesson for the managers.

This play had on its bills some very famous names. It was heralded by eloquent notices and much glowing press-work. The best seats cost \$2.50. Many people went. But if we are to believe the dramatic critics and public comment generally, the production was not worth the money charged, and those who attended felt a legitimate regret that they had been fooled once more.

Now the point has not to do with this one play, but with its results. When presented a fine, beautiful, well-remembered drama is offered, with the same enthusiastic advance notices, and the same elevation of prices, this time amply justified by the value and size of the piece, many people will fear to attend merely because they have been tricked so often before. They will have no faith in the perfectly true estimates of this new corner. They will remember that the merely ordinary thing had the same glorious announcement and asked the same ridiculous prices. The house will be small. It will be declared that Richmond does not reward the endeavors to give it high-class entertainment. But we can frankly say the fault lies with the public.

## HUMANIZE THE PENAL SYSTEM.

On the hills near Bellefonte, Pa., seventy convicts are constructing a new penitentiary. Seen in their honor, and accompanied by only a minimal guard, these prisoners are preparing a new penal institution for themselves, and before the building is completed and the usual crowd surrounding it prepared for the inauguration of the whole of the State prison population, with an exception of life prisoners, have been a work upon their own. The advance draughts of the new penitentiary are not so much concerned with the welfare of the State as with the welfare of the prisoners. It is a fact that the prisoners are not so much concerned with the welfare of the State as with the welfare of the prisoners. It is a fact that the prisoners are not so much concerned with the welfare of the State as with the welfare of the prisoners.

It may be true that the Roman girls were public skirts, but if we are not in Rome why do as the Romans did?

those of its way of thinking, that an appeal to the country would result in an adverse mandate. Not only that, but these skeptics reason, and not without force, that concession of home rule, which, sooner or later is bound to come in any event, would be far better for Ireland, for the United Kingdom and for the empire, if secured through popular favorable verdict. Certainly, under the pledge of the Unionists, as given through the Bona Law it would eliminate completely the Ulster obstacle. Moreover, it would put the Opposition materially on the defensive in future as to enlargement of the present scheme by granting fuller self-government to Ireland than that scheme contemplates. As a matter of fact, even the Spectator's existing slender barriers might be practically swept away.

The average prison keeper believes that he has fulfilled the purpose of the law when, at the end of a year, he reports that no escapes occurred during the year, and that there was no mutiny on the part of the prisoners. He inserts in his report some platitudinous statements about the spiritual aid and moral instruction received by the convicts from the prison chaplain. Warden Francis, on the other hand, points out that brains are impoverished through lack of nature's blessings and improper nourishment, and emaciated bodies respond but weakly to spiritual advice.

The Pennsylvania Legislature appropriated \$300,000 with the understanding that the total amount for the purchase of 2,000 acres of land and the building of the institution should not exceed \$1,250,000. On this great farm convicts will follow agricultural pursuits that will pay for their keep. In the shops men will learn useful trades, although it is to be hoped that the product of their work will not compete with ordinary labor. There they will be immune from tuberculous bacteria that physicians declared infect the cells of the present prisons. The prison paller will give way to healthy tan; tissue and strength will be built up, and the State will restore to these convicts what it had no right to take away—a sound mind in a sound body. Outside of the prison they will be put upon their honor and made to feel that they are not mere driven cattle, but human beings, capable of the noblest attributes of manhood.

Warden Francis declares that: "Nothing is so badly needed to handle prisoners as common sense. There are two classes that should be excluded from participating in the management of prisons, the first being composed of the individuals who believe in nothing but force, and the other the ones who believe in nothing but sentiment. A prisoner should be handled in a practical manner, regarded as a human being who has made mistakes, possessed of good and bad characteristics. No two men are absolutely alike, either in or out of prison, and therefore it is impossible to make an absolutely dead open and shut rule that will apply alike to all prisoners."

There is a cold, practical factor that must be considered—the burden imposed upon the public. In 1908 the cost of crime in the United States was \$1,372,000,000, while the national debt was at that time \$966,000,000. If the prisoner can be made to support himself, even in part, the taxpayer is relieved of that much of his burden.

The movement to humanize our penal system accumulates power day by day. It will soon resolve itself into an irresistible force of social justice working for the reclamation of human beings.

## GISTS OF LAUGHTER.

What this particular world needs rather badly right now is great cold gusts of giant laughter. There are no princely jesters left to keep us sane. The fine art of amiable, truthful satire is no more. The great loss that visited us in the going of Mark Twain is just beginning to be truly realized. His hatred of sham, over-seriousness, lack of perspective, blindness, and general inhumanity was like fresh air blowing through the solemn hall of our modernity. There are too many causes that never smile. Too many reformers who are machines and not folks. Too many ideals and not enough peace after meals. Even our motley crew of joke-makers are all theorists and propagandists. We need a queer combination of Cervantes, Rabelais, Butler of "Hudibras" memory, Dean Swift, Lewis Carroll, Shakespeare and Mark Twain to put the salt of sense into our myopic comedy. Even a mixed figure like that is better than the eternal verity of scientific statistics. Men are getting the big head and the little heart. It is time for a world-laughter to make fun of them and so help them.

"Corn: The Nation's Best Friend; How The South Can Make Use of It," is displayed in large type in a recent issue of the Columbia State. If the South can make use of it in any more ways than the North Carolinians do, it will be "going some."

Vice-President-Elect Marshall has taken a copy of the Senate Manual of parliamentary procedure with him to study in the Mojave Desert of Arizona, and he will doubtless wish he were back there sometimes when he is trying to run the Senate according to its rules.

Uruguay has appointed a woman to the diplomatic service, in the face of the fact that diplomats often have to keep a secret—often many of them.

One of the greatest benefactors to the human race will be the inventor of a dress that will self-button down the back.

Tests by the physical director of the Washington Y. M. C. A. show that the average laboring man's grip is 99 pounds, while the grip of the average department clerk who pushes the pen or taps the typewriter is 112.5 pounds.

Where is the old-fashioned grand-mother that will send Mrs. Woodrow Wilson a rag carpet for the company room in the White House?

It is to be hoped that a prominent place in the inaugural parade will be assigned to the Petersburg Index-Appel with its "cup of joy overflowing."

An interesting feature of the inaugural festivities ought to be the reunion of the true and tried Democrats who haven't cut their heads since Bryan missed it in 1908.

If the investigators are satisfied there isn't any money trust, will they please investigate and see whether there is any money?

It may be true that the Roman girls were public skirts, but if we are not in Rome why do as the Romans did?

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

## Good News for the U. C.

The ultimate consumer need not be down-hearted, for while some commodities are going up others are coming down. It was somewhat of a poser when he was confronted by the fact that there has been a heavy advance in the price of sugar, but the glad news has just been announced in London that there has been a sharp decrease in the price of radium, which is not only \$80,000 a gram, the lowest since it was discovered by M. and Mme. Curie. The ultimate consumer will be delighted to know that this great health restorer and general all-around boon to mankind can now be secured at such a trifling cost. A man can plunk down \$80,000 and carry away a whole gram of the substance where formerly it would have cost him more than \$100,000. A gram, by the way, is nearly large enough to make a shirtstud for a flea. The reduction in price will no doubt cause a great flurry in the radium market, which has been rather stagnant for some time on account of its prohibitive cost. Persons who have felt up to this time as though they could not afford a liberal supply of the precious substance will be ordering it from the wholesale houses and storing it up in the coal bin down cellar, as fast as they can. In fact, it will probably be only a short time until there will be but very little difference in the price of radium and coal. The news from England regarding radium is very reassuring and will tend to satisfy the ultimate consumer that he has much to be thankful for.

## Caught on the Fly.

John Philip Sousa has written a new opera. To be really successful it should have a boiler explosion at the end of every measure.

After all is said and done, the beef trust itself furnishes the best argument for vegetarianism.

Governor Wilson is a great writer and Governor Marshall is a great reader. That is as it should be, for a president has nothing to do but write and a vice-president has nothing to do but read.

Chicago court decides that women who step off street cars the wrong way has no claim for damages. Then no woman has any claim for damages.

Chauncey Depew is sojourning to Paris. Well, perhaps there are a few of his good old ones that Paris hasn't heard of or else has forgotten.

The price of champagne may, if it keeps on soaring, reach a height where it will be impossible to christen any more battleships and universal peace will result.

Calves says one must be tall and thin to succeed in America, but in spite of that Charlie Fairbanks never got any farther than the vice-presidency.

The Mexican revolution seems to break out fresh at the psychological moment when there is nothing else to put in the newspapers.

From the Hicksville Clarion.

Grandpa Bibbins is laid up with the sciatic rheumatism and this sciatic is a new kind of sciatic, which is called "sciatic" because it is sciatic.

William Tibbitts' delivery horse is so thin that Tibbitts hangs the harness on his shoulder blades, which is a new kind of harness, which is called "harness" because it is harness.

Tibbitts feeds sawdust in with the ground feed, nine parts sawdust to one part feed, and says the horse ain't complaining none about it, yet, although he does seem to be getting that wooden expression of contentment which we read so much about in Robert Chambers' novels.

Elmer Jones was calling on Miss F. H. H. the other night. Ah there, Elmer, pull the front window curtains down after this.

Old Man Purdy has got a new wooden leg made out of a popular tree and it grows so fast he has to saw off a new one every day.

He has saved off enough already to keep in stove wood almost all winter. The last wooden leg he sawed off was out of a weeping willow and it looked so pathetic he didn't have the heart to walk around on it.

Hod Peter says it's great when your kids have the measles. There ain't been a bill-collector within forty rods of his house for three weeks.

Hank Tamm says his wife has saved up almost enough soap wrappers to get a new soap box.

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## SIMPLICITY IN THE INAUGURATION.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Impressionable heart, but by cold reason, as befits disciples of Emerson. Men are to select their wives not for their beauty but only after careful scrutiny of the parents of their adored ones.

According to the latest scientific doctrine from the intellectual bank of the universe a young man desiring a tall, blonde wife should beware of such a creature if her mother should be short and dark, for, nine times out of ten, they are told, the daughter will follow the walks of her mother, color, and proportions of her maternal parent. Mrs. Clara A. Marsh, treasurer of the Fathers' and Mothers' Club, has this to say:

"I have a worried, unsettled look, pay accurate attention to how his wife greets him when he arrives home from work. If the mother is always getting him into more wealth, beware of her marriageable daughter."

In Boston in her mad search for the superman and superwoman, losing sight of the teachings of the sturdy Pilgrim fathers, the ship chandlers, soapmakers, and others who first established our country on a firm financial basis. Perish the thought! There was a time when the New Englanders, when the young would look at the father of the girl of his choice, and if he beheld upon the old man's brow wrinkles of financial thought, he would ask for the damsel's hand without further ado. There were other factors that produced the fact that his wife constantly urged him to obtain more wealth made a man the very paragon of a father-in-law. Is New England becoming decadent?—Washington Post.

## Turkey Farming.

In the specialization of poultry farming there are farms—or ranches, as they are generally called—devoted to distinct phases of the poultry business. On Long Island and scattered up and down the New Jersey coast, there are ranches devoted to duck raising that market annually from 10,000 to 20,000 ducks. There are other farms that produce chickens to be sold as "broilers" by tens of thousands annually, and there are egg farms that market from 200 dozen to 500 dozen eggs weekly. On Kent Island, where is only a two-hour run from Baltimore, the growing of geese has developed into something like a farm specialty. There is no other domestic fowl, however, that brings the high average price of the turkey, and it is surprising that turkey farming has not been more generally specialized. Peculiar conditions are necessary to turkey raising, but as much may be said concerning the raising of pretty much any other kind of poultry.

The turkey is difficult to rear during the first four weeks after it gets out of the shell, but after that is an industry forager and looks out for itself. Many turkeys that come to Baltimore are from the South, and there is no doubt whatever that birds from the tobacco regions are fattened largely upon tobacco worms. There are a few turkeys from the big green worms that feeds on the tobacco plant. They also have a ravenous appetite for grasshoppers. In fact, the turkey takes the lead as an insectivorous bird. Turning grasshoppers into turkey and selling the product at 25 cents per pound ought to be immensely profitable, as it means \$5 for a 20-pound bird and \$25 for a moderate-sized 10-pounder. A ranch that would market annually 1,000 turkeys would take in some cash about Christmas time.—Baltimore American.

## The Schoolmaster Senator.

The election of W. R. Webb to fill the short term in the United States Senate was a graceful compliment well bestowed. No man in Tennessee more deserved the honor, and none is better qualified to fill the station. Webb is an extraordinary fond of the parable that "would market annually 1,000 turkeys would take in some cash about Christmas time.—Baltimore American."

Mr. Webb, besides being a man of learning and mental culture, is possessed of a very high order of practical sense and talent for administration.

Few men are more conversant with the country's history and few better understand the public questions now uppermost in national politics. He understands them from the viewpoint of the student of economics as well as that of the practical man of affairs.

The fusion forces rallied without a break to the support of Mr. Webb, thereby demonstrating that their lines are unbroken, and at the same time discharging a debt to a man who has fought unflinchingly for the fusion cause and made at no time any compromise with the opposition.

Mr. Webb was the teacher of the late Senator E. W. Carmack and between the two men there existed the strongest bond of friendship. Senator Carmack had the highest regard for Mr. Webb's opinions, and could he have lived until now he would have rejoiced in the honor that has been done his talented instructor.

William F. McCombs, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, was a student at the Webb School, and a number of other prominent men in the early training in the same institution.

It would be well for the nation if the Senate were filled with men of the sound sense, clean character and sturdy calculating of W. R. Webb. He was a good Confederate soldier; he has long ranked among the first educators of the country; he stands high in his church, high as a public-spirited citizen, and if the time permitted he would take high rank in the Senate. As a teacher he has been noted for thoroughness and solidity. He tolerates no sham and permits nothing to be done halfway. It is a pity that such men are not more numerous in public life.—Nashville Banner.

## Age to Marry.

Now we have a professor's opinion that the proper age for a man to marry is twenty-five. Twenty is too early, says this authority. It is the silly, liable to be crumpy and intemperate oil and his mother. At thirty, he is a little over age, when romance begins to lose its vigor, and the man gets too calculating and exact. Says the author, "it is tantamount to taking a policy in an accident insurance company—marrying at thirty."

No ideal time is put at twenty-five, when a man is neither too fresh nor too stale, when romance and reality are properly mixed and a man leans neither forward nor backward. This information is not expected to be calculating and exact. Says the author, "it is tantamount to taking a policy in an accident insurance company—marrying at thirty."

Nothing that you can do for the wild life of this country at the present moment is of such importance as that you write the day you read this to your Representatives and Senators in Congress, urging with all your zeal the passage of this session of the McLean bill providing for Federal protection of all migratory birds. It is Senate bill No. 467, and on the Senate calendar is No. 467. It will save the lives of millions of our songsters and insect-eating birds. It is vital to the agricultural interests of the country, vital to your interests. Write at once, and induce every friend you can to write also. Write in your own way. Just say what you want. Ten thousand letters sent now to Washington would force the bill through."

Let this be an appeal to every one to write to their Congressman, urging support of the McLean bill.

Richmond, Va.

F. E. W.

Richmond, Va.

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## VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS.

## V. P. L. Presidency.

State-wide interest has been aroused in the candidacy of Mr. J. D. Eggleston for the presidency of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Friends and alumni of the school and a large majority of the press and public are opposing Mr. Eggleston's ambition and are actively objecting to his appointment. This opposition is stronger now than it was prior to Mr. Eggleston's acceptance of a position in the Federal Bureau of Education, and the reason therefor is not hard to find. It arises from a conviction that the first duty is being made a convenient agency for a politician's comfort and advancement.

No one has had a word to say against Mr. Eggleston's character or ability, but this fact does not affect the situation one bit. There are hundreds and thousands of men with character and ability who are not qualified for the presidency of a great educational institution, and it takes no elaborate argument to demonstrate that Mr. Eggleston is simply not the right man for the place.

Mr. Eggleston is identified with State politics and primarily he wants to be a politician. It may promote Mr. Eggleston's interests and increase his honors, and no school operated on broad and vigorous lines can afford to permit itself to be thus manipulated. The very fact that Mr. Eggleston is a candidate for the presidency should be sufficient to make the board of trustees reject him promptly.

The board cannot afford to let politics play a part in its decisions and thus it has to do with the desires and plans of politicians the more effective will it please Virginia people.

V. P. L. should be far removed from even a suspicion of politics, and if man, however successful he may have been in other public offices, should be allowed to subvert it to the advancement of his interests.

If Mr. Eggleston should be made president, V. P. L. will fall in the development of the public, and the educational under many recent sensational charges and investigations would be a feeling that this will be a ruin to the welfare of Virginia boys not for the prosperity of agriculture and industry, but for the special benefit of a few individuals, and if this feeling becomes clinched in the minds of which Blacksburg now labors will be intensified, and barriers in the path of its orderly growth will be strengthened.

If the trustees will strike from the minds and hearts every trace of the personal equation and keep before them the one simple thought, "We are here to do the best we can for the greatest good for the greatest number," they will forget that Mr. Eggleston's candidacy was ever mentioned. They will proceed to select a president who by experience, training, reputation, and ability shall be qualified to lead the people and to be the best and biggest school of its kind in America. Roanoke Evening World.

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